

(a) whether any scheme is under consideration of the Union Government to link Jaisalmer and Bikaner cities of Rajasthan with air services in the public or private sector;

(b) if so, the time by which these services are likely to be introduced; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c) Alliance Air has plans to airlink Jaisalmer in its winter schedule of 1997, subject to availability of infrastructural facilities. At present, Indian Airlines/Alliance Air have no plan to airlink Bikaner. Private Operators with suitable aircraft are, however, being encouraged to add more stations including Jaisalmer and Bikaner in their network subject to viability.

[English]

Development of Aircraft by HAL

787. SHRI SHYAM LAL BANSHIWAL : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited has a proposal to develop a 50 seater aircraft in foreign collaboration;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the present status of the proposal; and

(c) the time by which the proposal is likely to be finalised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N SOMU) : (a) to (c) M/s Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has addressed overseas aircraft manufacturers to ascertain their interest in establishing co-production of 50 seater aircraft in India with HAL. Some preliminary responses have been received. Schedules will arise only on confirm and complete responses.

Historical Monuments

788. DR. ASIM BALA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have initiated any new plan to develop, protect and preserve places of historical importance;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) whether any renovation projects have been undertaken in archaeological museums; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMALI) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, the centrally protected monuments under the Archaeological Survey of India are preserved and developed as per archaeological norms and according to the specific requirements of each monuments.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The displays in the archaeological museums are, however, improved periodically.

[Translation]

Teaching of English Language

789. SHRI BRAHAMANAND MANDAL : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any national policy has been worked out as to from which class the children should be taught English;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether this policy is being followed in toto by all the affiliated institutions;

(c) if not, whether the Government propose to evolve a national policy in this regard;

(d) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn towards the book 'Let's Learn English' (Book-Two Special series) being taught in class second in the Kendriya Vidyalayas, Navyug schools and other schools, though this book has been recommended to be taught in class third;

(e) if so, whether the Government have ever thought as to how a six years old child can learn this book;

(f) if so, the reasons for imposing English from the elementary class; and

(g) whether any measures are being taken by the Union Government to reduce the burden on school children and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) to (c) The national policy in regard to languages is embodied the Three Language Formula. However, there are variations in the implementation of this policy in various States.

(d) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.